

### REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending. Each independent claim has been amended to recite without rinsing with hydroxide. Support for this language is found in the specification as originally filed, e.g., at page 2, line 18 to page 3, line 6. Applicants retain the right to pursue subject matter previously pending or presented.

The specification has been amended to expressly recite that the voltage differential applied to the capillaries was +200 V/cm, which is the ratio of the 10,000 volt potential difference along the 50 cm capillary length as originally disclosed.

Claims previously reciting "liquid" detergent have been amended to recite a "lubricating" detergent. See, e.g., specification, page 2, lines 5-8.

Claims 1 - 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hu et al., J. Chrom. A, 717, (1995), pgs. 33-39 ("Hu") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,792,330 to Petersen et al. ("Petersen") and U.S. Patent No. 5,124,020 to Wang ("Wang").

Each of the cited references appears limited to rinsing capillaries with hydroxide in the form of NaOH or KOH intermediate electrophoresis runs. Hence, no combination of Hu, Petersen, and Wang discloses or suggests the present invention in which a capillary is used at least twice without intermediately rinsing with hydroxide.

Claims 1 - 22 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kendler et al., J. Chrom., 545, (1991), pgs. 397-402 ("Kendler") in view of Petersen and Wang.

Kendler also appears limited to rinsing capillaries with hydroxide. Accordingly, no combination of cited references discloses or suggests the present invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art cited in this case taken individually or in combination neither discloses nor suggests the present invention. Thus, the claims as presented and amended herein are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner wishes to discuss this case, then Applicants respectfully request a personal or telephonic interview to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the allowance of this application.

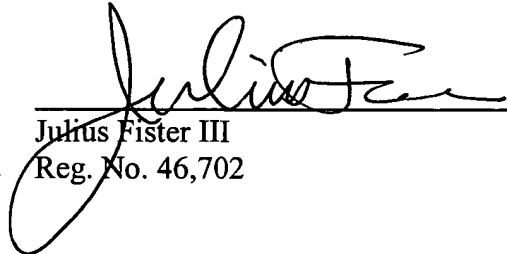
Applicant : ChangSheng Liu et al.  
Serial No. : 09/757,632  
Filed : January 11, 2001  
Page : 11 of 11

Attorney's Docket No.: 16969-020001

Enclosed is a \$490.00 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 1, 2004

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Julius Fister III  
Reg. No. 46,702

Fish & Richardson P.C.  
225 Franklin Street  
Boston, MA 02110-2804  
Telephone: (617) 542-5070  
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906

20966175.doc